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of the profoundest satisfaction and gratitude the recent utterances of the Hon. William H. Taft, President of the United States of America, and of Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary of the British government, bearing on the possible adoption by these two governments of a treaty providing for the submission to arbitration of any differences, of whatsoever sort, which may hereafter arise between them.

Resolved, That in our judgment the time has now fully come when such a treaty may and should be adopted, thus making forever impossible the economic loss, the moral and social disaster and the unspeakable horrors of war between these kindred and Christian nations, reducing the oppressive burden of military and naval armaments, paving the way for similar conventions between other governments, and introducing a new and a better stage in the history of civilization and of the kingdom of righteousness, of peace and of joy.

Resolved, That we pledge our sympathy, our prayers and our active support to the President and Senate of the United States in any efforts they may put forth to secure the ratification of such a treaty.

[The list of such resolutions and opinions could be indefinitely extended.]

The Practical View of the Peace Question.

BY MARCUS M. MARKS.

Skepticism is so general among business men regarding the possibility of an early end of wars between nations, that we should face the arguments of these unbelievers fairly and try to answer them satisfactorily. They say: (1) Wars have been waged since the beginning of the world. How can you believe that they will cease now? (2) The same passion for conflict exists now as ever. (3) The same ambition for conquest exists now as ever. (4) Selfish interests are as strong as ever. (5) The nations are geographically as far apart as ever.

The cynic meets the suggestion that international treaties and an international court of justice will end wars by the statement that treaties will be broken and the court disobeyed.

Some people go so far as to extol war: (1) Because it develops the heroic spirit and manly virtues: (2) Because it saves the world from over-population.

Let us take these matters in their order.

RECENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

Yes, war has been waged since the beginning of the world, but the world has changed more in the last hundred years than in all preceding time. Science has brought the ends of the earth closer together. The fast steamer, the express train, the telegraph and the printing press have been agencies tending toward the elimination of boundary lines between nations and the creation of conditions favorable to the development of the spirit of universal brotherhood. The strangeness is wearing off. We learn that the same hearts beat and the same red blood runs under every color of skin the world over. We find the same ambitions, the same virtues, the same passions everywhere.

INTERNATIONAL COURT.

It is not so long ago that man daily carried the sword, even in time of peace; that he fortified his castle against

his neighbor and settled his differences by sword and pistol combat. What has happened to cause the individual to change his attitude toward his neighbor, lay aside the sword and cease fortifying his castle? There have been established local courts of justice—legal machinery for the equitable adjustment of differences between men. The triumph of brute strength has been displaced by peaceful settlement, whereby justice is established. Only a police force has been kept to preserve the peace and reinforce the court when necessary.

What is a nation? A combination of individuals. The individuals having established the local court, what more natural than that the nations establish the international court? When this has been done, then, just as the individual discarded his sword and ceased to fortify his castle, so will the nation—a combination of the same individuals—give up army, navy and fortifications, retaining only an international police of sufficient strength to support the court of nations on extreme occasions.

THE SKEPTIC ANSWERED.

The skeptic says that the same passion for conflict and the same ambition for conquest exist now as ever before. True! But why should these human passions prevail between nations more than between individuals? They have not prevented the establishment of local courts and the triumph of justice and peace nationally, why then internationally? Oh! answers the skeptic, nations are farther apart than individuals. He forgets that not only has science brought the nations closer together, but the very skeptics, the business men, have unwittingly, through commerce itself, interlaced the interests of all civilized people into such close meshes that an injury to any one country has become an injury to all countries. All civilization has become part of a single body which will weaken or perhaps bleed to death, no matter in what part an artery be cut. Selfish interest, though strong as ever, cannot now be conserved without conserving the general interests everywhere.

Emperors and kings may have the same vainglorious desires as ever, but the development of strength in the popular will has grown so fast that the power of the emperors and kings to thrust the people into war has been very materially reduced. Representative government is being established everywhere to curb the ambition of unscrupulous rulers.

Regarding the breaking of treaties, if the nations once agree upon a uniform and general treaty, there will probably be a clause included which will visit the severest punishment upon any nation that attempts to break it. The combined forces of all the others will no doubt be brought to bear in such an emergency. Regarding disobedience of the international court's mandates, an international police will take care of that emergency if necessary.

Those who extol war because it develops the heroic spirit and the manly virtues should remember that there are much better methods for the development of courage than by the practice of slaughtering human beings. Everyday life offers many opportunities for the exercise of moral courage and all the other manly virtues. Whoever feels that the only way to develop patriotism is to go into the wholesale murder business had best not develop that kind of patriotism.

The argument that wars save the world from over-population is really too ridiculous to spend much time on. Nature takes care of the question of over-population, and man need not kill his brother for fear that there will not be room for both.

ARMAMENTS.

To the practical man it is beginning to become very clear that international peace is an absolute and immediate necessity. The rapidly-increasing cost and destructiveness of war is compelling peace. Seven-tenths of our federal receipts already go to the payment of the expenses of our past wars and the preparation for future wars. The same conditions exist in other nations. At the present cost of warships and other new war equipments, it seems that all the world is rushing madly toward bankruptcy,—and for what purpose? The relative strength of the nations remains about the same in spite of the vast and growing burdens of militarism. Whether one nation has five warships to the others' five, or twenty-five warships to the others' twenty-five, nothing is gained and much is lost by the increase.

It is often claimed that preparation for war, large armies and navies and strong fortifications tend to prevent war. Although this may be so at times, the contrary is more often the case. Place armed men close together, on both sides of a frontier, and there is more likely to be a test of strength between the two countries than if the frontier were free from soldiers.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

Between the United States and Canada there are more than three thousand miles of unfortified and undefended boundary, and for one hundred years we have lived in perfect peace with our near neighbor to the north. The treaty of reciprocity which we are about to make will bring us even closer together. It is suggested that in 1914 a free bridge be built at Niagara Falls connecting Canada with the United States in commemoration of this hundred years of peace between the two great nations.

Is there any reason why all the world should not be as neighborly as Canada is with the United States?

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

Suspicion brings danger. We should have faith, which brings faith in return. Life is like a mirror, which reflects what appears before it. Present an offer of fraternity and fraternity is reflected. If the alarmists keep on shouting war with Japan long enough and loudly enough they may, at a psychological moment, bring on war by spreading alarm and inciting passion. Japan has no more desire for war with us than we have with her. If we are but friendly and just to her, there is no reason why we should not enjoy enduring peace. To the alarmist we say, Stop! Have more faith in your brothers!

"SEEING IS BELIEVING."

The so-called practical man says, "Seeing is believing." Very often, on the contrary, believing is seeing. Those who are optimistic help to bring on the very condition they hope for, and those who are pessimistic cause gloom about them, which hinders the development of the best tendencies.

Can we not already see that the history of the individual is now being worked out most logically in the history of the nations? The organization of The Hague

is going on slowly but surely. All the nations have agreed on the principle of international arbitration. Since the first Hague Conference in 1899, one hundred and thirteen limited treaties of obligatory arbitration have been signed. An Interparliamentary Union has been established, its membership being made up of present and former members of the legislative bodies of the world. This Interparliamentary Union has met sixteen times in the last twenty-one years, and is a powerful and practical body working steadily toward universal peace.

Switzerland, Belgium, the Suez Canal and other territories have been neutralized. The more territory neutralized, the less chance of war. The International Peace Bureau at Berne, the International Bureau of American Republics, the Central American High Court are all parts of the new machinery for international peace.

WHAT YOU CAN DO.

You ask what you can do to help this good cause now? First, study the progress of the last hundred years, and have faith in the conclusion that international peace is a practical proposition and must be established through an international court and an international code of law between the nations. Speak of these things hopefully everywhere; join organized movements for peace. The individual can express himself with most force through organizations.

Remember that wars settle nothing. Wars decide but the relative strength of the combatants. They do not decide which side is right. The only lasting settlement of any conflict is one that is based on justice. The question which side is right can be decided not by war, but only by an impartial and competent court.

Let us not go through life like the man with the hoe, looking downward, but, spurning the dross of life and suppressing our savage instinct, look upward and onward, encouraged by the ever-present star of hope and sustained by abiding faith in our fellowman. Then shall we help to save the world from international brutality, from international injustice.

New York City.

Canada and World Peace.

BY W. L. SMITH, EDITOR OF THE TORONTO "WEEKLY SUN."

An address delivered before the Young People's Association of the Alhambra Avenue Presbyterian Church, Toronto.

All Canadians profess a desire to see peace maintained. As to some of the methods proposed with a view of attaining this end, there is room for question. Some there are who would have Canada create a naval armament for the purpose of assisting Great Britain to keep on the high seas a navy equal to that of any two other powers combined. They would also have us create an army available at all times for service in possible imperial wars. They say with this done the empire would be in a position to enforce peace by the threatened use of the mailed fist.

Any attempt to establish peace in this way must prove futile, and for two reasons:

In the first place, all history, from the time of the Roman Empire to Napoleon I, proves that peace cannot be permanently maintained through the preponderance of any one power. If the end we all desire is to be